

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 111025Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7468
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3627

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, KS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN PRIME MINISTER

1. SOUTH KOREAN PRIME MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY MAY 4-7. HIGH POINT OF VISIT WAS AN EXCHANGE OF DINNERS BETWEEN PRIMIN DEMIREL AND PRIMIN CHOE. PRESIDENT KORUTURK ALSO HOSTED LUNCHEON FOR CHOE. LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED DURING VISIT AND THE ONLY AGREEMENT SIGNED WAS A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, PRIMIN CHOE PROVIDED DEMIREL WITH A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE HISTORY OF SOUTH KOREAN INITIATIVES FOR "EASING TENSION, CONSOLIDATING PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND ACHIEVING THE UNIFICATION OF KOREA BY PEACEFUL MEANS". DEMIREL "NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE ACCOUNT GIVEN BY PRIMIN CHOE AND SAID THAT THE

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TURKISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMED EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES AIMED AT ELIMINATION OF TENSION IN THE REGION AND ACHIEVING THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF KOREA".

3. PRIMIN DEMIREL IN TURN PROVIDED CHOE WITH A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF GOT VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND CHOE RESPONDED WITH A NON-COMMITTAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE

GOT POSITION -- SIMILAR TO THE TURKISH RESPONSE ON
UNIFICATION.

4. COMMENT: CHOE'S VISIT RECEIVED SCANT PUBLIC ATTENTION
PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT WAS OVERSHADOWED BY APPROACHING
ELECTIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING BETWEEN DEMIREL
AND PRESIDENT CARTER IN LONDON MAY 10. ACCORDING TO MFA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR EASTERN AFFAIRS SELCUK TARLAN, GOT HAD NOT
WELCOMED VISIT AT THIS TIME, BUT THE KOREANS HAD BEEN
INSISTENT. TARLAN SPECULATED THAT KOREANS HOPED VISIT WOULD
REINFORCE TURKISH COMMITMENT TO A CONTINUING SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREA. TARLAN SAID THAT THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT COULD NOT COMMIT FUTURE TURKISH GOVERNMENTS ON
THIS ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT AWKWARD TIMING OF VISIT RESULTED
IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE THAT WAS LESS FORTHCOMING THAN THE
ONE NEGOTIATED DURING FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO
SEOUL LAST YEAR. SPECIFICALLY TARLAN SAID THAT CHOE HAD
SOUGHT GOT ENDORSEMENT OF SOUTH KOREAN INITIATIVES FOR
UNIFICATION BUT GOT HAD REFUSED TO SINGLE OUT THE SOUTH
KOREAN EFFORTS FOR PRAISE.
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